HB171:
Alternative Voting Methods Modifications

Non-Monotonicity

- Ranking your first choice as first can put them at a disadvantage.
- Candidates have asked their supporters to not rank them 1st on their ballot, but 2nd.
- Because of the gaming element, It can especially be used against incumbents who have stood up for something politically unpopular.

Auditing

- It is virtually impossible to do a hand count with RCV

- The centralization of the counting does not build trust among our local municipalities

- Having their support and involvement is paramount

- Ballot exhaustion leads to a false majority, and is not a true reflection of the support of the voters.

Ballot Confusion

- It has been found that there was significant ballot confusion for some voters.

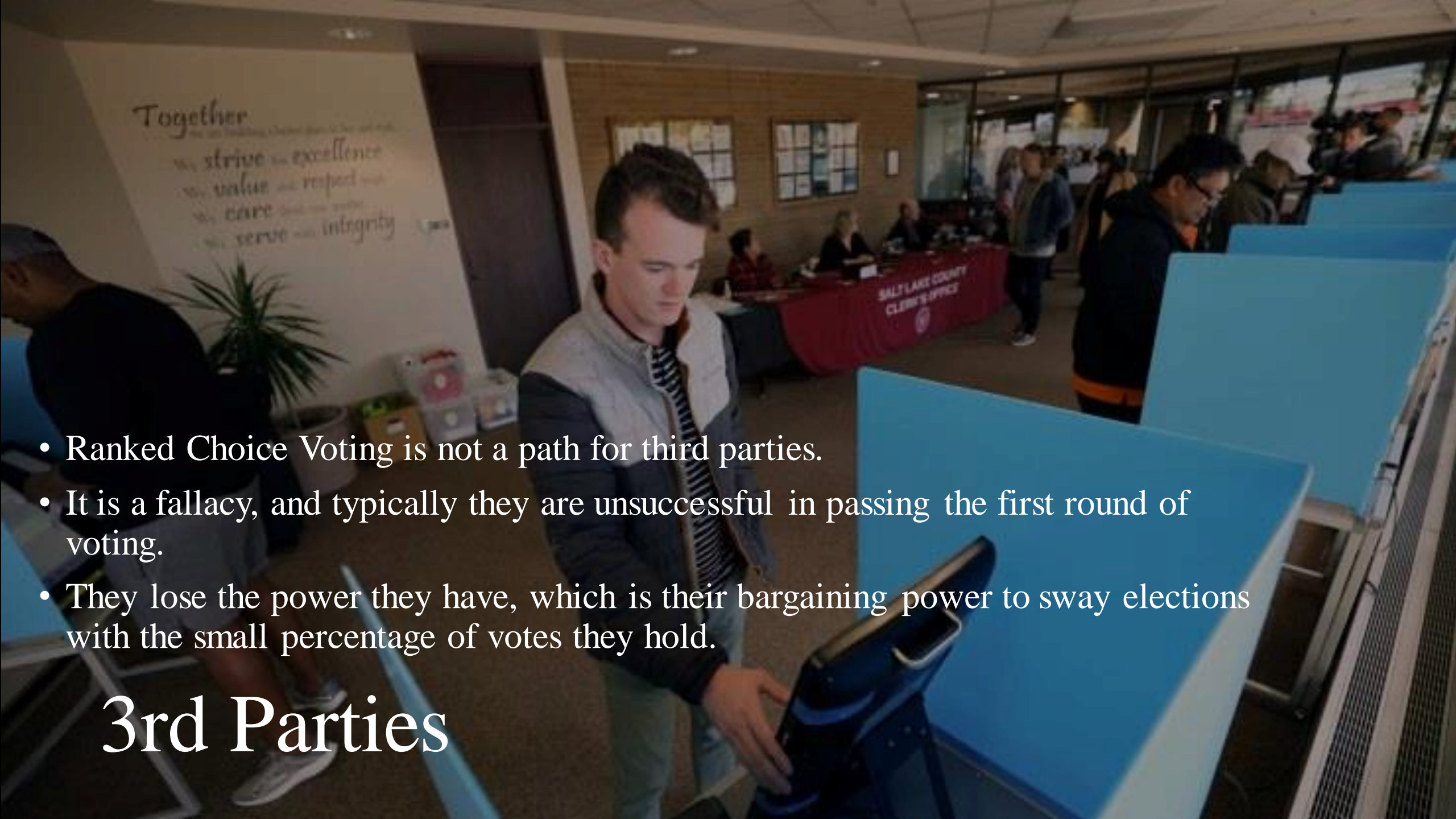- Many from Sandy City found the ballot overly complicated.

"In addition to causing confusion among voters, the ranked-choice format decreased voter turnout and resulted in ballots being discarded before the tabulation process was completed. Roughly 23,000 voters participated in the 2019 Sandy mayoral election. That fell to 21,000 in 2021. And only 17,000 of those voters had a say in the final round of ballot tabulation."

Mayor Zoltanski, Sandy City

"This disparity, between the total votes cast and the votes counted towards the final result, was caused by 'ballot exhaustion', or the elimination of ballots that do not mark a preference for each candidate during later rounds of tabulation. The threat of not having your vote counted pressures voters to rank every candidate, even if they aren't sure how they feel about them."

Brigham Tomco, Deseret News

- Ranked Choice Voting is not a path for third parties.

- It is a fallacy, and typically they are unsuccessful in passing the first round of voting.

- They lose the power they have, which is their bargaining power to sway elections with the small percentage of votes they hold.

3rd Parties

"To engage with voters and to encourage voter participation, people need to know what to expect, and when you change the rules from year to year, you change the election methodology, that just does not engender voter confidence, especially today when there's a lot of discussion about process reliability and transparency."

"I don't think that the benefits of ranked-choice voting outweigh the benefits of predictability, stability, familiarity,"

Mayor Zoltanski, Sandy City

The Benefits and Drawbacks of Ranked-Choice Voting in Utah

The Sutherland Institute

Potential Benefits

- Municipal policy decisions may better align with voter policy preferences.

- Taxpayer funds are saved in municipal election administration.

- More civility is observed in election campaigns.

- Voters report a positive experience.

Potential Drawbacks

1. Election criticisms are amplified in the current political climate.
2. Implementation issues harm public trust in elections.
3. "Ballot exhaustion" raises questions.
4. Effectiveness of RCV is susceptible to opposition efforts.

"Following the 2021 mayoral elections, Sandy voters were <u>asked</u> about their experience with ranked-choice voting. Though 66% of respondents found the process easy, with 85% saying they ranked more than one candidate, 60% disliked the system and said ranked-choice voting should not be used in future Sandy City Municipal elections."

Brigham Tomco, Deseret News

Vetting Multiple Candidates

"In the end was very, very difficult, even for informed voters, engaged citizens, to get to know, vet and distinguish one candidate from the next,"

Mayor Zoltanski, Sandy City

In the end this is about voter confidence. Repealing RCV in municipal elections is a way we can increase voter confidence in the state.